

tax proposal this week—a very difficult vote. I really don't know how I'm going to vote.

On the one hand, I see the benefit of getting timely temporary and targeted relief to people, which helps the economy with unemployment compensation, unemployment compensation that is most needed for the people of the purple hearts of this Bush recession.

On the other hand, I see the money going to the upper 2 percent—the millionaires and billionaires—who will get \$700 billion over 10 years, which will put a deficit on our children and grandchildren for years to come—something we can't afford. When it comes time to affording it on reckoning day, it's going to hurt people getting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and that's something I can't see.

The estate tax will benefit 6,600 families, to the tune of \$25 billion, and I see that as wrong, too; but I understand the need to stimulate the economy and to get middle class tax cuts to the people earning less than \$250,000.

I ask my constituents to contact me at www.Cohen.house.gov. Let me know what you think.

□ 1020

VIRGINIA OBAMACARE RULING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, earlier this week, a Federal judge in Virginia acted to defend the American people from an unconstitutional mandate to purchase health insurance. It really shouldn't be a surprise that a Federal judge recognized what many of us noted months ago: the Constitution does not give Congress and the President the right to force Americans to purchase a particular good or service.

Instead of finding ways to bring down the cost of insurance so that anybody can afford at least basic coverage, ObamaCare puts the Federal Government squarely in charge of the health care industry and then makes every American participate. The government defines what insurance is, what it does, what it covers and doesn't cover, and then forces you to buy it. Even with this unconstitutional mandate, health care costs will rise faster because of ObamaCare.

The next Congress will act to repeal this mandate and all the other bad ideas in ObamaCare because we, too, have a responsibility to protect the Constitution of the United States.

TAX CUT PROPOSAL

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I, along with many of my Democratic

colleagues, continue to fight for economic priorities for middle class Americans and for provisions that will create jobs and grow the economy. However, the tax proposal announced by the President calls for sharp differences in the policies and priorities of the Democratic and Republican parties.

For instance, the Democrats continue to fight to maintain tax cuts on incomes up to \$250,000 per couple and \$200,000 per individual, while Republicans continue to demand tax cuts for all incomes, including millionaires and billionaires.

The Democrats also strongly support the extension of unemployment benefits to help out-of-work Americans make it through the recession, while the Republicans are willing to hold the middle class and the unemployed hostage to benefit the wealthy.

The Democrats are championing the needs of low-income families by fighting to extend the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit. In addition, we are fighting to continue the college tuition tax credit to help students or working class families afford college.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support a tax cut proposal that will benefit our working class families and grow the economy.

EXTENDING THE TAX CUTS

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of extending tax cuts to American families and businesses.

This week, we have a choice. Congress can continue the campaign politics of the past year or Republicans and Democrats can set aside their talking points and get something done for the American people. I support the latter.

In my district, families are putting together their budgets and trying to make ends meet under difficult times. Small businesses are trying to make hiring decisions for next year. Family farmers are scared of losing their operations due to a looming bump in the estate tax, their inability to pass the farms on to their children.

In this struggling, fragile economic recovery, we cannot afford to let this happen. After months of partisan gridlock, it's time for Members of this House to listen to the American people and prevent their taxes from going up on January 1.

Delay is not an option. I call on the Congress to send the commonsense compromise, that is a compromise—that means by its very nature we have things that we like and things we dislike in the package—before us and send it to the President's desk, and then we must get serious about addressing and putting our Nation's fiscal house in order, which is job number one.

AIR FORCE TANKER

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to alert my colleagues to a very important job creation issue that resides potentially in the defense authorization bill that may come to the floor.

We have the opportunity to do something right for the American worker and the American taxpayer by insisting that in the competition for the new Air Force tanker that we take into consideration the illegal subsidies that have benefited so extraordinarily the Airbus competitor for the tanker contract. It is absolutely imperative that at this moment when we are struggling to create jobs in this country that we take into consideration in this competition the fact that our competitors in Europe have received over \$5 billion of illegal subsidies, and we have to insist the Pentagon take that into consideration.

For those that share my view, I hope you will join me in a letter to make sure that an amendment we passed will become part of the defense authorization bill. It is the only way to make sure that we keep these jobs in America and build a U.S. Air Force tanker.

EXTENDING THE TAX CUTS

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. I rise to support the tax compromise that will be coming to the floor for a vote this week.

I represent the State that has the highest unemployment rate in the country. In my district, almost one in five people that I represent, 20 percent, are unemployed. The extension of those unemployment benefits is critical to the survival of thousands of the families that call Las Vegas home.

In addition to that, I represent a working class town. People think of Las Vegas as glitz and glitter, but it's glitzy and glittery because of all the working men and women that call Las Vegas home. I represent waiters and waitresses and busboys and Keno runners and cocktail waitresses and valet parkers and showgirls. They're all middle-income wage earners, and to extend that middle-income tax cut is critical to them.

The alternative minimum tax extension is important to 33,000 Las Vegans that will be ensnared by that alternative minimum tax if we don't pass it. The earned income tax credit, the marriage penalty tax credit, the child care tax credit, for the people I represent, so many of them single women with children and working, they need this child care tax credit.

Let's all vote for it.